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V.

United States of America,
Washington, 28th July 1842.

The bearer of this, John James Audubon, is a native citizen of the United States, who has informed me of his intention of travelling on the continent of America, chiefly to promote the cause of science by researches in natural history. He is known to me to be a naturalist of eminent acquisitions and estimation, a man of character and honor and worthy of all personal respect and regard. I recommend him to my countrymen abroad and to the authorities and inhabitants of other countries that he may receive the friendly offices, aid and countenance which are due to the interests of science and the rites of hospitality among civilized nations.

JOHN TYLER,¹

President of the U. States.

LIST OF THE BIRDS OF LOUISIANA. PART IV.²

BY GEO. E. BEYER, ANDREW ALLISON, AND H. H. KOPMAN.

64. ROSEATE SPOONBILL (*Ajaia ajaia*). The only locality in the State where this species is now positively known to occur is the region about Lake Arthur, in southwest Louisiana. Material collected in this locality in 1894 is now in the museum of Tulane University. Spoonbills are reported to be resident in the Lake Arthur region. Their nesting places are in the heavy river and lake swamps of Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes. Two specimens were shot on the Mississippi River about five miles below New Orleans in December, 1884.

65. WHITE IBIS (*Guara alba*). A common resident, especially in swampy sections of the southern part of the State. In the latter part of summer it is not an uncommon sight in the less settled portions of the State to see long files or irregular flocks of this species, containing about

¹ John Tyler, Tenth President of the United States, born March 29, 1790; died January 18, 1862.

² For Parts I and II, see Volume XXIII, pp. 1-15, 275-282; for Part III, see Volume XXIV, pp. 314-321.

equal numbers of adults and young birds, moving at evening from the feeding grounds, and in the mornings returning from the roosts. Local (Creole) name: Becceroche (Crooked bill).

66. SCARLET IBIS (*Guara rubra*). The occurrence of this species in Louisiana as noted by Audubon is the only reliable record of which we have knowledge. A specimen in the State Museum in New Orleans prepared, by a New Orleans taxidermist, is said to have been killed in Louisiana about 1888, but the chain of testimony in this particular case is imperfect.

67. GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis autumnalis*). A resident in the same section as the Roseate Spoonbill, but not as common as the following species.

68. WHITE-FACED GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis guarauana*). Resident and breeding in southwest Louisiana. Several small flocks at Lake Prieu, Calcasieu Parish, in September, 1898 (Beyer).

69. WOOD IBIS (*Tantalus loculator*). Appears to be growing rarer every year. Occurs in the vicinity of heavy swamps in various parts of the State. Two nesting colonies of about 40 birds each were formerly observed in St. Tammany Parish on the Bedico and Bogue Chitto Rivers (Beyer), while it has been seen in summer in Cameron Parish, in southwestern Louisiana, and in Madison Parish, diagonally across the State. In the latter section there are some very deep swamps, and considerable numbers were noted there in July, 1896 (Kopman). The nests of the colonies noted in St. Tammany Parish were bulky and formed of large dry sticks, placed at an elevation of 25 or 30 feet, directly over a waste of mud and water. The flock composing one of these colonies was seen using two tall dead tupelos as roosting places later in the season, beginning about August 1. Wood Ibises were seen at Lake Catherine, La., in October, 1904.

70. AMERICAN BITTERN (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). Breeds in limited numbers; common as a winter resident. Local (Creole) name; Gaze-Soleil (Sun-gazer).

71. LEAST BITTERN (*Ardetta exilis*). An abundant resident in the marshes of the coast; more conspicuous, and doubtless more abundant, in summer than in winter. Has been noted also in summer about the marshy edges of heavy swamp lakes in northeastern Louisiana (Madison Parish). Nesting begins the latter part of April, in the latitude of the Gulf Coast. This species is commonest along the borders of bayous in the marsh.

72. GREAT BLUE HERON (*Ardea herodias*). A common resident in all sections of the State. It is most plentiful, of course, in marshy and swampy sections, and about large expanses of water. Large numbers are never seen in one locality as with the smaller herons.

73. AMERICAN EGRET (*Herodias egretta*). A resident, but less common in winter than in summer. Is growing less common. Occurs along the coast and at suitable localities inland.

74. SNOWY HERON (*Egretta candidissima*). It has been at least twenty years since this species has occurred in any considerable numbers. A few

pairs were seen on East Timbalier Island in June, 1907, where apparently they were breeding with the large colony of Louisiana Herons. East Timbalier is now a government reservation. A colony at Avery Island is given protection by E. A. McIlhenny. It is doubtful whether this species ever wintered in large numbers in Louisiana.

75. REDDISH EGRET (*Dichromanassa rufescens*). Rather common as a breeder along the coast, but disappearing more or less completely in winter.

76. LOUISIANA HERON (*Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis*). This species breeds chiefly in the grass and bushes of several islands off the Louisiana coast instead of in swamp "rookeries" on the mainland, as in the case of the other species. There are large colonies at East Timbalier and other islands. The colony at East Timbalier numbers about 1750. Nearly all stages of nesting were observed when this colony was visited early in June, 1907.

77. LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Florida cærulea*). This is the commonest of the herons of Louisiana; in winter, however, it is almost entirely absent. It arrives at the latitude of the coast early in March. The flocks of returning migrants are usually small, and single birds are frequently seen. Long irregular flocks, with white birds usually preponderating, are seen traveling over well defined routes at the approach of autumn. The spring birds, when the species first returns, are most frequently seen on cloudy and windy days, traveling at a considerable height. This species is undoubtedly one of the commoner large migrants at night throughout much of the spring, especially on wet nights or when stormy weather prevails. The favorite resorts of the Little Blue Heron are heavy swamps rather than open marshes. Rookeries occur at various localities throughout the wetter parts of the State. One that lies a few miles south of New Orleans is situated where swampy woods give way to fresh water marsh. The nests are chiefly in willows. Yellow-crowned Night Herons are included in the same colony. Nesting is usually well under way by May 1.

78. GREEN HERON (*Butorides virescens*). The Green Heron does not arrive in Southern Louisiana in large numbers until the end of March. The migration appears to be performed entirely at night. Great numbers may usually be heard on wet or windy nights throughout April. This species is about as common in suitable localities inland as near the coast.

79. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax nævius*). This species is commoner in winter than in summer, but it has been found breeding in the vicinity of Lake Maurepas (Beyer), and has been found on East Timbalier Island early in June (Kopman).

80. YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON (*Nyctanassa violacea*). Chiefly if not exclusively, a summer visitor, arriving the end of February or early in March, and being heard in night migration with the other herons throughout the spring. In summer, also, the voice of this bird may be frequently heard at night, movements to and from the feeding grounds apparently occurring with great frequency during the hours of darkness. The swamps

of the southern section of the State are preëminently the home of this species; it is most frequently found feeding on the borders of wet woods, but sometimes in their depths, as well as about canals and ditches on cultivated lands, and along bayous in the marsh. Local (Creole) name: Grosbec.

81. WHOOPING CRANE (*Grus americana*). A winter bird, visiting the coast in considerable numbers.

82. SANDHILL CRANE (*Grus mexicana*). Resident on the coast, frequently occurring there in large numbers.

83. KING RAIL (*Rallus elegans*). Chiefly a winter bird, but probably breeds in fresh or brackish marshes near the coast, and at suitable localities in the interior of the State, as about the marshy edges of the lakes and swamp sloughs in the north central and northeastern sections of the State.

84. LOUISIANA CLAPPER RAIL (*Rallus crepitans saturatus*). This is the common rail of the coast, where it is extremely abundant. It occurs in fresh or brackish marshes a short way from the coast as well as in marshes bordering directly on salt water. It occurs along the Mississippi River as far north as the upper quarantine station. Nesting begins fairly early and the young birds are out of the egg by the first of June or even earlier.

85. VIRGINIA RAIL (*Rallus virginianus*). A common winter visitor, frequenting almost any wet place where there is suitable cover. It has been seen at New Orleans as late as April 7. It arrives in southern Louisiana about October 1.

86. SORA (*Porzana carolina*). While not breeding in Louisiana, this species is very common there throughout a large part of the year. It reaches the rice fields, especially those along the lower course of the Mississippi, by the middle of August, and becomes very abundant in September. It winters in smaller numbers, and grows common again in spring. Most leave by the first week in April, but a few are seen until end of the month.

87. YELLOW RAIL (*Porzana noveboracensis*). Fairly common in winter, especially in rice fields. Birds of this species are sometimes caught by hunting dogs.

88. PURPLE GALLINULE (*Ionornis martinica*). Resident, but rare in winter. Commonest near the coast, being found along bayous through the marshes and swamps, about rice fields where the ditches and canals are fringed by heavy growths of weeds, rushes, and grasses, and even about the marshy edges of lakes and swamp sloughs in the interior of the State. The main body of this species in Louisiana is chiefly migratory, and in the case of the few resident individuals there is considerable local movement in winter. Nesting usually starts the latter part of April. Many nests with fresh eggs have been found on the Company's Canal, near New Orleans, on April 28. Local name: Blue Rail.

89. FLORIDA GALLINULE (*Gallinula galeata*). While occurring in the same localities as the Purple Gallinule, this species is found more in open marshes where the cover is not so dense than in places frequented by the Purple Gallinule. However, it has been found nesting commonly in

marshy growths about the edges of swamp sloughs in northeastern Louisiana. About little pools in the marshes to the east of New Orleans, especially about Lake Borgne, Lake Catherine, etc., this species may frequently be taken unaware while swimming or walking over the muddy edges to the pools. As many as 8 or 10 together may sometimes be seen under these circumstances. The nesting of the Florida Gallinule appears to occupy about the same period as that of the Purple Gallinule. Fresh eggs may be found as late as July 1. The numbers of this species are much reduced in winter. Local (Creole) name: Ralle Poule d'eau.

90. AMERICAN COOT (*Fulica americana*). Very abundant in winter, and a few may breed. Individuals have been seen as late as May 18, with Blue-winged Teals. Unobstructed water surfaces are preferred by this species. It reaches southern Louisiana in large numbers about Oct. 1. The majority leave before the middle of March. Local (Creole) name: Poule d'eau.

91. WILSON'S PHALAROPE (*Steganopus tricolor*). Rather an unusual migrant.

92. AMERICAN AVOCET (*Recurvirostra americana*). A migrant only. A specimen was taken on Bayou St. John, near New Orleans, Nov. 12, 1889, at almost the identical spot where Audubon took one of his specimens (Beyer).

93. BLACK-NECKED STILT (*Himantopus mexicanus*). Resident, but commoner in winter. It is found rather generally in open wet places in the southern section of the State, but never in large numbers.

94. AMERICAN WOODCOCK (*Philohela minor*). Fairly common in suitable localities in winter, but growing steadily less so; it has been found breeding in the State. A young one was retrieved by a dog near Covington on January 29, 1890. Mating birds had been observed during the middle of January near Madisonville (Beyer). Local (Creole) name: Bécasse.

95. WILSON'S SNIPE (*Gallinago delicata*). Most abundant during spring and fall. Its occurrence during winter is extremely irregular; occasionally it is found in considerable numbers in either December or January. The greatest numbers are present during October and part of November and again after the middle of February until the early part of April. The heaviest migration usually occurs the latter part of March. A few are seen even until the early part of May. Returning individuals may be found by September 1 or even earlier. Open marshes, wet pastures, and rice fields are the favorite resorts of this species in Louisiana. Local (Creole) name: Bécassine.

96. DOWITCHER (*Macrorhamphus griseus*). Associated with the following, but not so common.

97. LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER (*Macrorhamphus scolopaceus*). Abundant as a winter resident along the coast and in other suitable localities. This species arrives from the north by August 15 or earlier. Lingered individuals have been seen on the coast until the early part of June, and it is not only probable but practically certain, as in the case of various

other species of Limicolæ, that non-breeding individuals are present in Louisiana all summer. Local (Creole) name: Dormeur.

98. STILT SANDPIPER (*Micropalama himantopus*). Has not been observed in recent years. Specimens have been taken during migration in the past.

99. KNOT (*Tringa canutus*). This species is rare in Louisiana. Specimens in the Kohn collection at Tulane University, New Orleans, were taken at Grand Isle March 28 and April 2.

100. PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*Actodromas maculata*). A very common migrant, occurring in wet pastures as well as on mud flats along the coast and in the marshes. Arrives at the latitude of New Orleans the first week in March, and is present in large numbers late in March and early in April, while it continues present in limited numbers even until May 15 or 20. Returns to Louisiana during the latter part of July. The fall migration is usually completed by October. Local name: Cherook.

101. WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER (*Actodromas fuscicollis*). Its movements agree rather closely with those of the preceding, but it is not very common except on the remoter islands of the coast, as Chandeleur, Breton, East Timbalier, and Last Island, where shore birds of all descriptions abound in migration, and where some kinds not breeding in Louisiana may be seen throughout the summer. The White-rumped Sandpiper has been seen on East Timbalier early in June.

102. BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (*Actodromas bairdii*). An uncommon migrant.

103. LEAST SANDPIPER (*Actodromas minutilla*). Very common during migration, arriving usually in August, being found sparingly in winter, and lingering until late in spring. It is a bird of the coast rather than of inland waters and wet places in the interior.

104. RED-BACKED SANDPIPER (*Pelidna alpina sakhalina*). Occurs in winter, as well as during the migrations, along the coast, and has been taken at Freshwater Bayou, Calcasieu Parish, in January (Beyer). Has been noted at Cameron, in the same parish, as late as May 25 (Kopman).

105. SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER (*Ereunetes pusillus*). A very common migrant, especially on the coast. It returns from the North in considerable numbers by the end of July; but does not appear to linger so late in spring as the Least Sandpiper.

106. SANDERLING (*Calidris arenaria*). A rather common migrant, found chiefly or entirely along the coast. Migrants return from the North early in August. Has been seen at Cameron on June 30, but the individuals noted in this case were doubtless non-breeding birds that had been present since spring. Lingers in the spring, and has been seen during the last of May.

107. MARBLED GODWIT (*Limosa fedoa*). Not especially common; chiefly a migrant, but also found on the coast in winter.

108. HUDSONIAN GODWIT (*Limosa hæmastica*). Not common; specimens in the Kohn collection were taken at Vinton, Calcasieu Parish, on April 22, 1895, and at New Orleans, September 27, 1895.

109. GREATER YELLOW-LEGS (*Totanus melanoleucus*). Occurs in winter as well as during the migrations; often found in large numbers on the coast. Local name: Klook-klook.

110. YELLOW-LEGS (*Totanus flavipes*). Movements about the same as those of the preceding species, but wintering in smaller numbers. Migrants appear in Louisiana early in March, and are commonest the latter part of that month and for a while in April. It returns to Louisiana about August 1. Local name: Klook-klook.

111. SOLITARY SANDPIPER (*Helodromas solitarius*). Very common as a migrant throughout the State, especially in the lowlands. The earliest date of arrival at New Orleans in spring is March 9, and the average date is March 15. It becomes very common by April 1 or even earlier, and is seen in numbers until the latter part of the month, and has been seen as late as May 6. The return of this species has been noted on July 9; it is extremely common in August and for the first half of September.

112. WESTERN WILLET (*Symphemia semipalmata inornata*). A common resident on the coast, especially in the southwest. On the marsh prairies in Calcasieu Parish it is extremely tame.

113. BARTRAMIAN SANDPIPER (*Bartramia longicauda*). Not known to breed in Louisiana, but it is present until late in the spring (May 19), and returns by the middle of July. It does not winter, and disappears by the middle of October or earlier. The first in spring has been noted at New Orleans on March 9. It is common by April 1 or earlier. It is found chiefly in fields and pastures. It is much esteemed as a game bird and goes locally by the name "Papabotte."

114. BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (*Tryngites subruficollis*). Occurs as a rare migrant, said to be more common in winter on the coast. Two specimens were taken from a flock of eight on the outskirts of New Orleans in October, 1887. Other specimens have been taken in October.

115. SPOTTED SANDPIPER (*Actitis macularia*). Common as a migrant, breeding in limited numbers, and possibly wintering in small numbers. Its migrations begin later in spring than those of most of the other species. It is not usually seen at New Orleans until April, and is commonest after the 10th or 15th of that month, disappearing more or less completely by the early part of May; it has been found breeding, however, on several of the drainage canals about New Orleans (Beyer). It is common as a migrant again by the end of July, and so remains until the middle or latter part of September.

116. LONG-BILLED CURLEW (*Numenius longirostris*). Probably breeds on the Louisiana coast in limited numbers; has been seen at Cameron on July 1. It is common at some coast localities in winter.

117. HUDSONIAN CURLEW (*Numenius hudsonicus*). Winters sparingly on the coast and is rather common as a spring and fall migrant. Has been noted at Sabine Pass as late as May 20 (Kopman).

118. ESKIMO CURLEW (*Numenius borealis*). A migrant only, now rare if not absent, but formerly common for a short while in spring and fall.

119. BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER (*Squatarola squatarola*). Common on the coast during migration, having been noted on Timbalier Island in March, and as late as the first of June. It has been found in considerable numbers on Grand Island in August and September.

120. GOLDEN PLOVER (*Charadrius dominicus*). The principal migration of this species in spring occurs between April 1 and April 15, though individuals have been seen on the coast during the late spring and early summer; the latest date recorded is Shell Islands, off Bastian Bay, June 10, 1907 (Kopman). In fall it has been seen on Grand Island in considerable numbers in September.

121. KILLDEER (*Oxyechus vociferus*). Breeds in Louisiana in limited numbers, even in the southern part of the State. Abundant in winter; numbers reach the southern part of Louisiana about Nov. 1, the first migrants arriving about Oct. 10. Few are to be found in the southern part of the State after March 10.

122. SEMIPALMATED PLOVER (*Ægialitis semipalmata*). Common during migration, especially along the coast, and wintering there in smaller numbers; the spring migration occurs chiefly during April; the return from the north occurs the latter part of July.

123. PIPING PLOVER (*Ægialitis meloda*). A rare migrant. One specimen was obtained on Lake Pontchartrain in October, 1893 (Beyer).

124. BELTED PIPING PLOVER (*Ægialitis meloda circumcincta*). A common migrant on the coast, especially on the chain of islands from Last Island to East Timbalier. This species has been observed on these islands through a considerable part of June. It frequents the sandy parts of such islands beyond the reach of the tide. In such locations it is the most conspicuous bird figure, and its notes may be heard almost continuously.

125. SNOWY PLOVER (*Ægialitis nivosa*). Fairly common in some seasons on Grand Island and similar islands during migration.

126. WILSON'S PLOVER (*Ochodromus wilsonius*). The Louisiana coast lacks the favorite situations of this species — the beaches of "sharp" white sand, such as occur on the eastern Gulf Coast; and consequently the Wilson's Plover is found in rather small numbers along the Louisiana Coast. It is probably resident wherever occurring.

127. TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*). A rather common resident on the coast.

128. AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER (*Hæmatopus palliatus*). Is growing constantly rarer. The last seen were noted at Grand Island Sept. 9, 1900 (Beyer).